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Letter dated 5 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith a press release of the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The Sudan calls for adhering to the commitment to the exit in 2020 of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

In keeping with its national, regional and international commitments, the Government of the Sudan has continued to provide the assistance and facilities that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) needs to fulfil its mandate. The Sudan has been doing so from the time that the mission entered the country to the present through national and joint mechanisms operating at the level of the central Government and in the Darfur states. This has had a positive effect on the situation in Darfur, which has improved steadily thanks to a series of measures aimed at extending the authority of the State and promoting the rule of law. The most significant of those measures were the national weapon-collection campaign, increased presence of police and judicial institutions, community reconciliation and coexistence, and reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in order to bring the development that is needed.

In cooperation and coordination with the Government, UNAMID has executed phases one and two of its reconfiguration plan, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), which was preceded by a number of African Union communiqués and Security Council resolutions, and in accordance with the terms of reference of the exit strategy that the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations signed in February 2015.

Close cooperation and coordination between the Government and UNAMID has made it possible to avoid any relapses or setbacks in the areas from which the mission withdrew in the first and second phases. The Government of the Sudan would like to emphasize that the deployment of State institutions and the emergent social consensus should prevent any setbacks in areas where UNAMID is supposed to reduce its number or from which it will withdraw, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report on the strategic review of UNAMID that was issued in this past June.

As everyone is aware, what the Darfur states truly need are reconstruction and development, the promotion of which would further the recommendations on peacebuilding support that are set out in resolution 2363 (2017). The international community must therefore make positive and tangible contributions in that regard, in keeping with its obligations and with the commitments that donors made at the Arab summit that was held in Doha in 2013. In addition, the United Nations country team in the Sudan must be given the funding it needs to implement projects that support peacebuilding.

The Government of the Sudan notes that the recommendations that were issued on 1 June 2018 by the team that conducted the strategic review of UNAMID include specific time frames for the exit of the mission in 2020. It furthermore notes that the African Union Peace and Security Council endorsed those recommendations at its 778th meeting on 11 June 2018. That notwithstanding, the Government notes that some parties have sought to impede the exit of UNAMID by the appointed date by sowing confusion and attempting to undermine the stability that has been achieved, citing clichéd arguments and spurious pretexts in order to circumvent the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqué and the recommendations set out in the strategic review team's report.

The Government of the Sudan deplores these counterproductive efforts and reaffirms its readiness to continue cooperating with UNAMID and to facilitate the work of the mission and its exit in 2020.

(*Signed*) Qariballah **al-Khidr**
Ambassador
Official Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs